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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,607	10/29/2003	Scott Kay	4419-4068	9622

27123 7590 12/15/2004
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EXAMINER

BRITTAIN, JAMES R.

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,607

Applicant(s)

KAY, SCOTT

Examiner

James R. Brittain

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10292003
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Madsen (US 1794384).

Madsen (figures 1-5) teaches a locking toggle clasp assembly for releasably coupling opposing terminal portions of a necklace comprising: a toggle bar 12 connected to a first terminal portion of the necklace; and a toggle clasp 11 connected to a second terminal portion of the necklace, the toggle clasp having an opening, wherein the toggle clasp is selectively movable between an open position, figure 4, in which the toggle bar may pass through the opening and a locked position, figures 1 and 2, in which the toggle bar is prevented from passing through the opening. In regard to claim 3, note the toggle loop 13 and swivel 14. In regard to claim 16, Madsen (figures 1-5) teaches a toggle clasp assembly for releasably coupling opposing ends of an item of jewelry, comprising: a male toggle member 12 having a major dimension along a first axis and a minor dimension along a second axis, the male toggle member adapted to be coupled to a first end of the jewelry item such that the first axis is generally perpendicular to a major axis of the jewelry item; a female toggle member 13 defining an opening and adapted to be coupled to an opposing end of the jewelry item; and a protruding member 14 pivotally connected to the female toggle member, the protruding member selectively movable between an open position

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where the male toggle member can pass through the opening and a closed position where the protruding member impinges into the opening to prevent the male toggle member from passing through the opening. As to claim 20, Madsen (figures 1-5) teaches a method for releasably coupling opposed ends of an item of jewelry, comprising the steps of: providing a male toggle member 12 on a first end of the item of jewelry, the male member having a major dimension and a minor dimension; providing a female toggle member 13 on an opposing end of the item of jewelry, the female toggle member defining an opening that is smaller than the major dimension; pivoting a swivel 14 about the female toggle member from a closed position where the swivel impinges into the opening to prevent the male member from passing through the opening to an open position where the swivel does not impinge into the opening; inserting the male toggle member through the opening along an axis corresponding to the minor dimension when the swivel is in the open position; and pivoting the swivel to the closed position to impinge the swivel into the opening and releasably prevent the male toggle member from passing through the opening.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Madsen (US 1794384) in view of Fox (US 2004/0139586).

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Madsen (figures 1-5) teaches a locking toggle clasp assembly for releasably coupling opposing terminal portions of a necklace comprising: a toggle bar 12 connected to a first terminal portion of the necklace; and a toggle clasp 11 connected to a second terminal portion of the necklace, the toggle clasp having an opening, wherein the toggle clasp is selectively movable between an open position, figure 4, in which the toggle bar may pass through the opening and a locked position, figures 1 and 2, in which the toggle bar is prevented from passing through the opening. The difference is that the swivel 14 including the disk 16 is of a size almost equal to the central opening of the annular ring portion 13. However, Fox (figures 1-4) teaches that the swivel 2 need not be so large as to cover the entire opening, but only sized to prevent removal of the toggle bar 14 from the opening 13 thereby enhancing the appearance and saving material, which is a significant cost saving in the jewelry art because of the use of expensive metals. As it would be beneficial to enhance the appearance of the fastener of Madsen while saving material, it would have been obvious to modify the relative dimensions of the ring and lever of Madsen so that there would still be some open area in the closed position as taught by Fox, since it would function equally well as evidenced by Fox and would improve the appearance and save material. In regard to claims 12 and 13, the use of the necklace fastener of Madsen upon a bracelet would have been obvious in view of Fox teaching that necklace fasteners are readily usable for other purposes such as bracelets [0036].

Claims 8, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Madsen (US 1794384) in view of Katz (US 5410784).

Madsen (figures 1-5) teaches a locking toggle clasp assembly for releasably coupling opposing terminal portions of a necklace comprising: a toggle bar 12 connected to a first

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terminal portion of the necklace; and a toggle clasp 11 connected to a second terminal portion of the necklace, the toggle clasp having an opening, wherein the toggle clasp is selectively movable between an open position, figure 4, in which the toggle bar may pass through the opening and a locked position, figures 1 and 2, in which the toggle bar is prevented from passing through the opening. The difference is that friction is not used to lock the swivel in the closed position. However, friction is a common expedient to secure a locking lever in the jewelry art and Katz (figures 1, 2, 4) teaches that friction between the body 2 and latch 22 is used to hold the pivoted latch 22 in place (col. 4, lines 14-18). As it would be beneficial to provide the fastener of Madsen with a positive securement to maintain the swivel in place, it would have been obvious to modify the fastener of Madsen to utilize friction to lock the swivel in the closed position in view of Katz teaching that friction is a common expedient to provide a securement for a pivoted latch in the jewelry art.

Conclusion

The patents of Cox (US 906616, figures 1-3), Smith (US 1401503, figures 1-4), Kleffman (US 1718908, figure), Wilson (US 1107126, figure 1) and Conkey (US 1134994, figures 1-2) teach pertinent fastener structure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (703) 308-2222. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James R. Brittain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

JRB